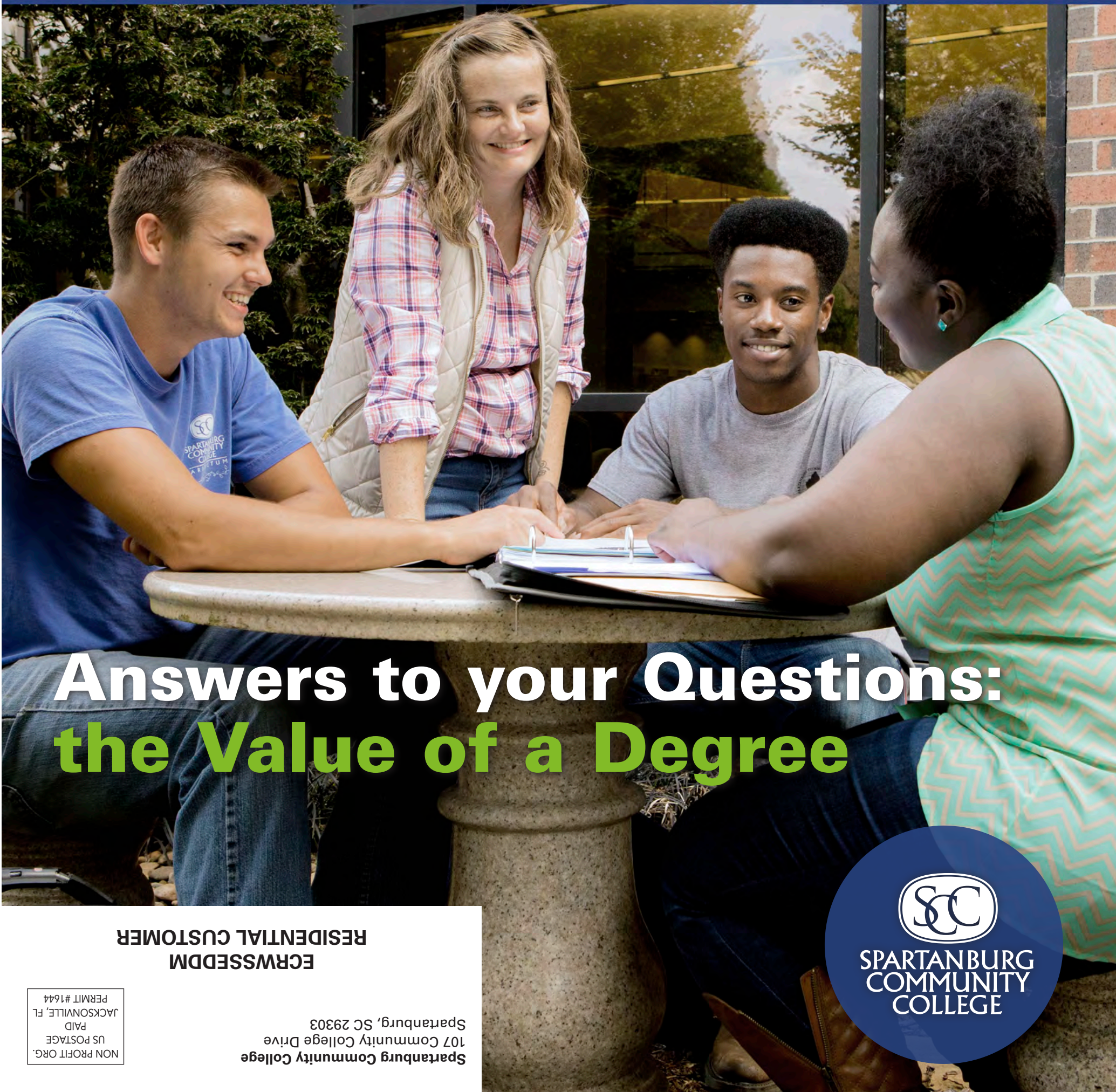


CareerFocus

Spartanburg Community College

Winter/Spring 2018

Volume 3 • Issue 1



**Answers to your Questions:
the Value of a Degree**

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Spartanburg, SC 29303

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45%

of all U.S.
college students
attend a
community
or technical
college.



On average,
community and
technical college
tuition costs
less than

50%

of public university
tuition



80%

of first responders-
including emergency
medical technicians,
firefighters and police-
receive training at
a community or
technical college.



Taxpayers get a
return of about

\$1.70

for every
dollar spent
on community
and technical
colleges.

Community
and technical
colleges train

60%

of nurses.

Almost
50%

of all military
veterans in
college attend
a community
or technical
college.

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SCC President

Chief EditorCheri Anderson-Hucks
SCC Director, Marketing & Public Relations

SCC Staff Editors Jane Bird
Melissa Kessler
Pam Sutphin

Visit Spartanburg Community College online at www.sccsc.edu or call us at (864) 592-4404 or call toll free at (877) 592-4404

SCC Mission Statement

Spartanburg Community College (SCC) provides affordable access to high-quality technical, transfer and lifelong professional and personal development programs in a teaching and learning environment that prepares students for success. The College is a key community partner in advancing the Upstate's economy.

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CareerFocus

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Read CareerFocus anytime on your mobile device, computer or tablet at:

sccsc.mycareerfocus.org

It's the easy way to share articles, access Spartanburg Community College resources and get on the path to a new career.



Answers to Your Questions: the Value of a Degree

In choosing a career, it's important to know your personal interests and talents, the job outlook for occupations matching your interests and talents, the education required, and the earnings you can expect annually and over a lifetime. Resources at Spartanburg Community college's career planning center can help you identify the occupations that are best suited to your personality and aptitudes. Several recent economic studies shed light on the outlook for national and local jobs and help answer the question: Is higher education worth it?

Occupational Demand, Educational Attainment, and Earnings

Labor market economists Anthony P. Carnevale, Nicole Smith, and Jeff Strohl of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce have produced a comprehensive and detailed look at the future national job market and the relationship of employment demand to educational attainment. Their June 2010 study, "Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements through 2018," included these two conclusions:

- By 2018, the U.S. economy will create 46.8 million openings—13.8 million brand-new jobs and 33 million "replacement jobs," positions vacated by workers who have retired or permanently left their occupations. Nearly two-thirds of these 46.8 million jobs—some 63 percent—will require workers with at least some college education.
- By 2018, the postsecondary system will have produced 3 million fewer college graduates than demanded by the labor market.

It is well established that postsecondary education is associated with increased earnings and upward mobility. While 65 percent of workers with a high school diploma and no college experience have household incomes placing them in the middle class or above, completion of the associate's degree raises this proportion to 80 percent. Earning the bachelor's degree pushes the proportion in the middle class or above to 86 percent.

This analysis by Carnevale, Smith, and Strohl documents the considerable differences in annual earnings depending on the type of job one holds. Professionals such as doctors and lawyers, corporate managers, healthcare professionals such as nurses and therapists, and workers with skills and education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM occupations) earn notably higher incomes than workers with less education. Within healthcare, contrast the \$77,827 average

earnings of those with professional training at the Associate's degree and above with the \$28,446 earned by healthcare support workers without postsecondary education. Carnevale, Smith, and Strohl note that the health care industry has increased employment by almost 650,000 jobs since the current recession began. But some jobs pay better than others, and education makes the difference.

What's an Associate's Degree Worth?

These same economists have calculated the median lifetime earnings of workers at each level of educational attainment. This allows us to put a dollar amount on the value of education at each step. The economic benefit of additional education and training over a lifetime can be substantial.

On average, people with a high school diploma will earn almost \$9,000 per year more than those



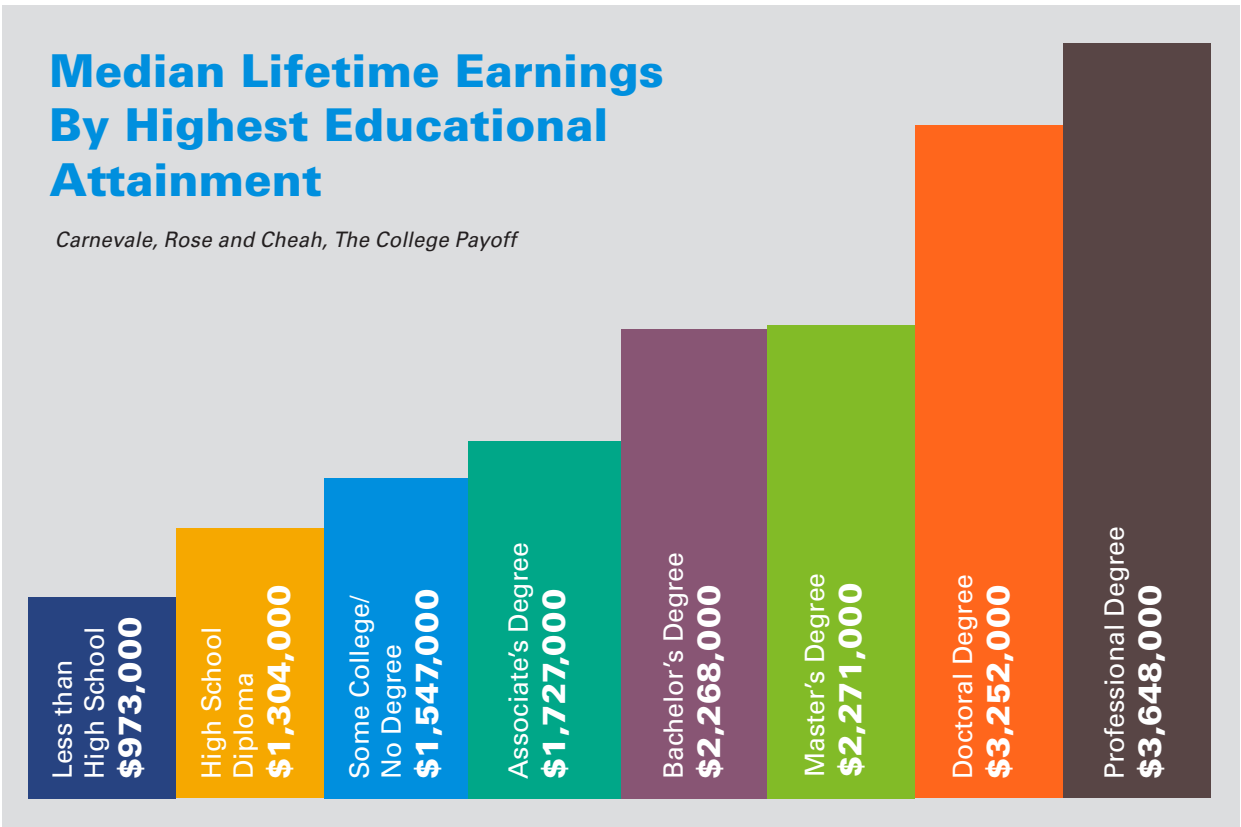
who have not completed high school. Over a lifetime, this translates to over \$330,000 in additional earnings.

Having some postsecondary education, even without earning a degree, adds nearly one-quarter of a million dollars to lifetime earnings.

Getting an associate's degree bumps this up another \$180,000.

So an associate's degree is worth over \$420,000 in lifetime earnings above what you can expect to earn as a high school graduate.

Consider further investment in yourself. Take advantage of the resources at Spartanburg Community College and visit the Career Services and the Advising Centers to explore occupations. Invest in your education, advance your career, and enrich your life. You're worth it! ■



The Intangible Benefits of College Education

Studies have long shown that going to college, whether for two or four years, is the best way to reach a higher salary, greater chance of employment, and better health insurance. New studies now show it could lead to a longer and happier life!



47% more likely to have employer-paid health insurance



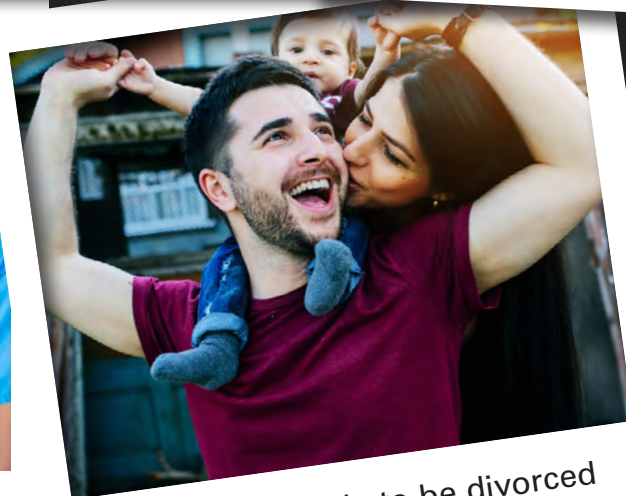
Earn **134%** more per year



44% more likely to report "very good" or "excellent" health



24% more likely to be employed



61% less likely to be divorced



72% more likely to have a retirement plan



Live **7 years** longer



Retirement income is **2.4x** higher

Flipping the College Decision-Making Paradigm

By Diane Hollems, Ph.D.

Go ahead, try it.

Ask any adult, regardless of their education level, to recount how they approached the three choices – major, college, career. Ask them to describe, in order, which they choose first, then second and finally last.

They will probably tell you that the first thing they chose was the college they wanted to attend. They might have picked a parent's alma mater, a party school, the one as far away from their parents as possible, or the one by the ocean or in a big city. After choosing a college, most settle next on a major, but usually not until they have attended for a couple of semesters. That choice is too often driven by what they were interested in at that time, the requirement by the college that it was "time" to choose in order to begin division classes or maybe even coaxed by a best friend to "major together."

Finally, somewhere near or even after graduation, if they made it that far, they picked their career, and embarked onto the job to market, expecting to get hired. In today's economy that is a rude awakening for student and parent alike. Today 8.5 percent of college graduates are unemployed or 16.8 percent are underemployed one year after graduation, according to The Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C.

Career planning cannot start in the junior year of college.

Your final question, particularly if your interviewee has been out of school for many decades: "Do you think graduating high school students today make the same choices in the same order?" The answer is a resounding yes.

Then ask them, as self-aware, mature adults today, what the selection order should have been. The answer is shocking in its simplicity and it only takes moments for the person questioned to come up with the answer. Career

first, major second, and college third. The order makes sense. Your career dictates what major to pursue, which in turn defines which colleges are appropriate. It is an "ah-ha" moment for most. Now they get it, but for many it's too late.

The problem isn't that students are not going to college; the problem is that they are not finishing. They are not finishing often because they find out they don't like their major or don't see the point of further education, they lose interest, and then decide to "figure it out later." President Obama set a goal of the U.S. having the highest percentage of college graduates in the world by 2020. How do we get there? Start career planning earlier.

Career planning cannot start in the junior year of college. The research is clear: Students who enter college with an informed declared major are far more likely to graduate (by double), than those who wander through the maze of educational choices. At a time when education leaders are engaged in discussions about college completion, free community college and performance-based funding, some of the most obvious and effective solutions are right in front of us.

This simple flip of the college decision-making paradigm is how every student in America should approach their education.

So is there an answer? Yes, there is.

Students at more than 100 schools throughout the nation are flipping the college decision-making paradigm through the Get Focused...Stay Focused!® (GFSF) Initiative.

In a GFSF program, all ninth grade students complete a semester or year-long freshman (90 hour to 180 hour) comprehensive guidance course that helps students identify their interests and life goals, discover a career aligned to those interests and goals, and begin a unique skills-based 10-year education plan to prepare for that career. In some schools, students can receive dual enrollment college credit. And in some districts in California the 10-year plan is required for graduation.

During the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades, students take a series of follow-up 16-lesson instructional modules that help them expand their career and education options and learn the process for selecting and applying to college or postsecondary training, identifying the skills needed for their chosen career and the plan required to get those skills both in the classroom and in the community.





This program goes beyond high school. There is a new mobile app, which facilitates the continuance of the career and education planning process. Students now have a tool to easily share their plans with advisors, counselors, friends and family. When inspiration strikes and a GFSF graduate learns something new, he or she can continue the self-discovery process of updating their 10-year plan.

Schools who adopt this program make a commitment of from 90 to 140 hours of classroom time over four years in the freshman course and later in the modules. It is not difficult to integrate the lessons, because they are academically based and meet the Common Core state standards. Instructors who deliver this hybrid course with fidelity will develop more motivated students.

The results make the commitment well worth it. Upon completion of the program, Get Focused... Stay Focused!® students identify and graduate with:

- A carefully considered career path
- An informed major or program of study
- A post-secondary institution or training program that not only matches their career and life goals but is affordable
- A unique Skills-based Education Plan that facilitates successful entry into a highly competitive workforce upon completion of their education.

This program is successful in California, Oregon, New Jersey, and Kansas. Eastern Oregon

University has adopted the GFSF model in their 22 Eastern Promise high schools. Recently in an Oregon Public Broadcasting interview the state superintendent called out this program as the one that showed great promise for helping tackle their state's dropout problem.

Students at more than 100 schools throughout the nation are flipping the college decision-making paradigm through the Get Focused... Stay Focused!® (GFSF) Initiative.

Over the last six years two California high schools have been trailblazers and their innovation has paid off. At Carpinteria High School, the pass rates for courses required for acceptance to schools in the University of California or Cal State systems have risen from 23.3 percent in 2007 to 47.6 percent in 2013. Academic Performance Index (API) scores jumped from 710 in 2007 to 778 in 2013, while suspensions dropped from 137 to 47 during that same period.

And it doesn't take long to see results. Indio High School in California started with the Freshman Transition course in 2009. The number of freshmen with three or more Fs decreased by nearly half from 29 percent in 2009 to 16 percent in 2010 and freshmen were responsible for 49 of the school's 65-point Academic Performance Index (API) increase within that first year. But more than statistics this program changes the culture of your school. Said John Farinella, Principal of Rahway High School in New Jersey:

"The goals that are established in the 10-year plan then form the foundation for our guidance counselors and teachers to take those plans forward and continue to have those meaningful discussions with our students about how they are going to get through those plans."

So the next time you're in a discussion with friends and in conversation the topic turns to their college choices, ask them the college, career, major survey question - followed by the query: "What should it be?" They too will quickly realize the order that actually makes the most sense. This new realization to flip the paradigm of college-decision making choices will be an epiphany for them. Helping them understand the most direct route to a self-sufficient future will be doing parents, students and the economy a great service. ■

Used with the permission of Diane Hollems, Ph.D. Co-founder & Interim Executive Director, Get Focused Stay Focused National Resource Center. www.getfocusedstayfocused.org

Get Focused... Stay Focused!

Progression in education model

GET
FOCUSED

STAY
FOCUSED

Middle School:

- ✓ Participate in a transition program to prepare for high school and the Freshman Transition course
- ✓ Learn career exploration strategies using online resources from the U.S. Department of Labor
- ✓ Learn study skills and expectations for high school

In 9th Grade:

- ✓ Take the Freshman Transition course (dual credit optional)
- ✓ Work through a process that answers the questions:
 - ✓ Who Am I?
 - ✓ What Do I Want?
 - ✓ How Do I Get It?
- ✓ Create an online 10-year Plan as the culminating project of that comprehensive guidance course

In 10th Grade: Developing Attitudes & Aptitudes that Promote College & Career Readiness

- ✓ Research high-demand/higher-wage careers
- ✓ Determine appropriate post-secondary options/pathways
- ✓ Learn about college access and affordability
- ✓ Continue to envision a productive future through autobiographical writing
- ✓ Update 10-year Plan

In 11th Grade: Determining Your Informed Major & Post-Secondary Education Path

- ✓ Research STEM-related careers
- ✓ Reaffirm or change chosen career path
- ✓ Choose a major/program of study to match chosen career
- ✓ Identify colleges/post-secondary options that offer your major/program of study
- ✓ Prepare for college applications
- ✓ Update 10-year Plan

In 12th Grade: Preparing to Act on Your 10-Year Career & Education Plan

- ✓ Apply to college/post-secondary training
- ✓ Apply for scholarships and financial aid
- ✓ Update resume, cover letter, and portfolio
- ✓ Mock interview and job applications
- ✓ Outline a Skills-based Education Plan
- ✓ Update 10-year Plan

End of High School:

- ✓ College Ready: No need for remedial coursework upon entering college
- ✓ Enter college/post-secondary training with an informed declared major
- ✓ Graduate with a portable, online 10-year Plan and a Skills-based Education Plan
- ✓ Ideally, graduate with at least 12 college units and portable, online 10-year Plan

Attending College/Post-secondary Training:

- ✓ Enter with a 10-year Plan or take a Student Success course to create a 10-year Plan
- ✓ Use 10-year Plan in meetings with advisors and counselors

End of College/Post-secondary Training:

- ✓ Certificate or degree completion and/or transfer to a 4-year college or university

Goal for End of Post-Secondary Education & Training

- ✓ Have the skills to be competitive and find work in chosen career field



We Have Got Your Back

By Naomi Sheehan

Spartanburg Community College is an unparalleled resource for education, whether you are starting fresh or starting over. It's your local, flexible, and affordable option to prepare for your career.

It's also your source of support. With family and job responsibilities, students have a lot on their plates. That's why SCC offers a wide range of student services.

Advising

Need a game plan? Your first stop is SCC Enrollment Services to speak to one of our friendly academic advisors!

If you're considering classes but you aren't sure where to begin, take an interest and skills inventory. We'll identify your aptitudes, careers that match your interests, and help plan out your program of study.

Give the SCC Academic Advising Center a call at 864-592-4990, visit us online at sccsc.edu/advising, or come in for a face-to-face meeting on campus. We're located in Terhune Student Services Building, room 174.

Financial aid

Compare SCC to four-year schools in the state, and you'll find that our tuition and fees are less than one-third the cost. Learn about costs and how to pay for college at: sccsc.edu/financialaid.

You may qualify for federal aid. Find out by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.ed.gov. SCC also offers multiple scholarships through federal, state, and private endowments. Search the available scholarships and find out if you qualify: sccsc.edu/scholarship.

Tutorial and study resources

Did you know that SCC offers free tutoring? Subjects include math, English, science, accounting, computer applications and more. Learn more at sccsc.edu/tlc or drop by the Learning Center in P. Dan Hull building, rooms E2, E5, E6.

Our testing center is available to online students and students completing make-up tests. Stop by P. Dan Hull Building, room E3 or visit sccsc.edu/testingcenter to learn more.

Support resources

The AIM Center provides assistance to qualifying students including single parents, displaced homemakers, and those economically disadvantaged. Services include assistance

with textbooks, transportation costs, childcare services, and more.

TRIO Student Support services is available to first-time college students who meet certain eligibility criteria. TRIO provides tutoring, assisting with study skills, financial literacy information and much more. Visit sccsc.edu/trio-sss to see if you qualify.

If you have a documented disability the Student Disability Services office is here to help students who choose to register and self-identify. Visit the SDS Office in P. Dan Hull Building, room E4 or sccsc.edu/sds to learn what resources and accommodations are available.

Options, options, and more options

SCC offers dozens of two-year associate degree programs, as well as many shorter-term diploma and certificate options. Evening and online classes help you fit classes into your busy life.

Beyond the degree-credit programs, Corporate and Continuing Education at the college offers more training options to help you brush up on your skills or develop new ones to meet current employment needs.

All of these options and more are available in your community, when and where you want it. ■



Answering the Call: Spartanburg County, state dealing with looming EMS shortage

By Daniel J. Gross, staff writer with
Spartanburg Herald-Journal

Campobello resident Jody Ledford climbed into an ambulance three years ago and hasn't looked back since.

Now a paramedic with Spartanburg EMS, he faces long days, high stress, a modest salary and little appreciation from some who call 911.

He said he understands why Spartanburg County, and the rest of the state, are dealing with a looming shortage of EMTs and paramedics.

"It's often a very thankless job. ... You really have to have a passion and a drive to want to do this kind of work," the 35-year-old said. "You don't get into it lighthearted and thinking something's going to be fun like you see on TV. You want to help people."

Local and state officials are now finding ways to promote the emergency medical profession to fill in the gaps. A shortage has placed a strain on call response times and workloads for those still in the industry.

There are 19 vacancies at Spartanburg EMS. Overtime is offered daily to cover the gaps.

The job outlook over the next decade is more reassuring. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the national emergency medical services profession growing by 24 percent by the year 2024.

But getting there is the key. Spartanburg Community College offers certificates to become an EMT and also a paramedic associate's degree that includes full class loads along with training at hospitals and inside ambulances. Friday morning's paramedic class covered soft tissue care and burn injuries.

Ledford went through SCC's program. He said as Spartanburg County grows, EMS is seeing higher call volumes. Currently, the agency handles about 150 calls per day.

"People will refer to a paramedic as an ambulance driver. We are so much more than that. The back of that ambulance is an emergency room on wheels that can do a lot of things that you get done in the hospital," Ledford said. "Having a fully-staffed service with well-trained

people is absolutely the difference between life and death of the public."

EMS officials and state technical college representatives met in Columbia late last month to discuss ways to bring the industry back to full strength.

Leaders there say apprenticeships are available through Apprenticeship Carolina, a division of the S.C. Technical College System, where an agency could hire someone to work for them while that person is getting an education to become certified. Essentially, those interested can start working sooner and have their education paid for along the way.

Officials at SCC and Spartanburg EMS say this is a new opportunity. Both parties said they plan to meet with each other to work out an agreement in the near future.

EMS interim director Jeff Carroll said the paramedics and EMTs who came willingly into the profession in the 1970s are now moving onto nursing or physician assistant positions but the influx has not continued since then. He said technical colleges have historically emphasized manufacturing jobs, so fewer people have been drawn to EMS.

"I think a lot of people have so many options for what they can do. We haven't done as good of a job as we should have with marketing or recruiting for the job itself," Carroll said.

Pay is another issue.

Spartanburg EMS authorized a pay raise for paramedics and EMTs, bumping a starting salary up to \$42,000 for paramedics and \$31,000 for EMTs. The countywide EMS agency runs stations throughout the county, utilizing a staff of 134 full-time and part-time paramedics and 53 full-time and part-time EMTs.

Response times tend to be slower, Carroll said, and with staff picking up overtime as a result of the shortage, they are not in peak working condition, Carroll said.

"Our employees have a passion for the job and are covering the shortage," Carroll said. "But it takes a toll on these responders."

To become a paramedic, an associate's degree can be obtained in five semesters at SCC.

Program Director Doug Paris has been a career paramedic since 1984. He became the director of the EMS program at SCC in 2012.



"I want to give back to perpetuate the well-being of EMS," Paris said.

Paris said he will speak with Spartanburg EMS soon to gauge their interest in the Apprenticeship Carolina program.

"We could put people in paramedic class by January," he said.

Paramedic classes include topics of pharmacology, IV therapy, trauma management, medical diseases, pediatrics, geriatrics, EKG interpretation, HAZMAT, and weapons of mass destruction.

"They're paid for their readiness," Paris said of the level of education.

Phillip Logay, 18, of Boiling Springs, works as a firefighter for the Boiling Springs Fire Department but is continuing his education to become a paramedic.

He's taking classes now at SCC.

"The job itself requires high morale, and a lot of people don't have the guts for it," Logay said. "Some people think they'll like it, and they start doing it and see blood and guts and they're out."

Paris also coaches students on traumatic stress and what they will likely encounter on the job. He hands out his cell phone number for every class and encourages students to talk about their experiences.

"We see things that people should not see," he said.

Carroll said getting EMS staff to high schools and community college classes to talk about the value of the profession is what is needed now.

"The expectation is that when you call what you want shows up and you get it. If we're not able to have quality people get training and make the connections that we need to make to keep people in those jobs, in your future that may not be the reality that you get," Carroll said. "It's important that we don't lose sight of what we need to do to keep this functioning." ■

Reprinted with permission of the Herald-Journal (GoUpstate.com)
<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20171002/spartanburg-county-state-dealing-with-looming-ems-shortage>

Transfer Advantages for Spartanburg Community College Graduates

Starting at Spartanburg Community College and then transferring to a four-year institution is a common strategy for students planning to earn a bachelor's degree. SCC has many resources available to help students who are looking to transfer.

Ease into the college experience

With dedicated faculty and smaller class sizes, SCC is better at easing students into the college experience and provides more individualized attention.

SCC faculty focus more on teaching and generally have less competing interests – like research projects, project funding or getting work published – that would distract them from teaching introductory college courses. There's also opportunity for more individualized attention to help struggling students directly thus increasing their chances of success.

Many SCC class sizes for general education and elective courses are smaller than those at four-year institutions. Smaller class sizes allow for better access to the instructor and also more individualized attention, which again translates into better learning and potential student success. At SCC, the average class size is 25 students.

Save money

Attending SCC can provide substantial savings. For starters, tuition and fees are less than four-year institutions. Tuition at SCC for two years is \$8,400. Those same two years would cost \$30,000 at a four-year public college such as Clemson, or \$90,000 at a private college such as Furman. By starting and staying at SCC through completion of the associate degree, students may save enough to cover the tuition cost of their junior year at another college or university.

Spartanburg Community College's campuses are conveniently located, saving students commuting costs and dorm expenses by living at home.

Another important yet often overlooked benefit is scholarship opportunities. "Scholarship opportunities (www.sccsc.edu/scholarship/) are available to people who start at a community college," said Bea Walters Smith, executive director of advancement and the SCC Foundation. When students start at community college,



they start building their college transcript, and their academic achievements there can lead to scholarship opportunities not just at the community college, but at a four-year institution as well.

Complete the basic requirements

Bachelor programs require that students fulfill a set of general education courses, and community colleges are good places to earn these credits. SCC students can take these courses and be guaranteed they will transfer to four-year public institutions and many private institutions.

Upstate Direct Connect is an exclusive opportunity for two-year colleges partnering with the University of South Carolina Upstate that guarantees admission to USC Upstate for any student who graduates with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA and with an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science or selected Associate of Applied Science degrees from a partner school, including SCC. SCC also has articulation agreements with many other colleges including Clemson, USC-Columbia, Converse, Limestone and more!

Assistance with transferring

Most community colleges, like SCC, offer dedicated assistance to help students with the transfer process. Students are provided with online transfer resources and information on transfer agreements, application deadlines, scholarships and more. Many four-year

institutions hire personnel specifically to assist and recruit students from community colleges.

Many of these representatives visit SCC's transfer fair to speak with students about transferring to their college/university. Community colleges are good places to explore career fields of interest before committing to a major. It's an opportunity to take time exploring options while paying less per credit than at a four-year institution.

SCC encourages all students to seek advising from a counselor in the SCC Academic Advising Center or from their assigned academic advisor when deciding to transfer to another college.

Boost grade point average

Taking classes at SCC can help improve a student's grade point average (GPA). Unlike most four-year institutions, SCC has an open-door admissions policy allowing students to be accepted regardless of past academic performance. Students who improve their academic record show four-year institutions they are serious about their education and it permits them to meet the minimum admissions requirements at their chosen four-year institution.

Transferring from SCC is a smart way to start college, save money and achieve academic goals. And, by utilizing the expertise of dedicated instructors, professionals and resources, the process provides a smooth transition to a four-year institution, especially for graduates with an associate degree. ■

Building a **SOLID** Career

Construction industry needs new, skilled workers



By Bob Montgomery, staff writer with *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*

After more than five years in the U.S. Air Force, Donovan Ledford in May decided to go to college “to learn something new.”

He didn’t know exactly what he wanted, just that he wanted a career where he could work hard and earn a decent living. Then he saw that Spartanburg Community College had openings for HVAC classes, and that workers in that field were in demand.

“It just kind of dawned on me,” said Ledford, 24. “I like to work. And it’s a good industry. There’s a lot of money in it. We’re in the South and people need air conditioners.”

Today, Ledford is enrolled in a one-year certificate program. He plans to find work with a heating and air conditioning installer, or as a service technician, when he’s finished that in July. Down the road, he might open his own business.

According to the Associated General Contractors of America, average private sector hourly earnings in the construction industry climbed to \$29.19 in September — a 3 percent increase over September 2016.

Yet construction firms continued to report a hard time finding qualified trade and crafts workers to hire — carpenters, plumbers, electricians, HVAC installers, roofers, bricklayers, pipefitters, cement masons and sheet metal installers.

A recent survey of 1,600 construction firms found that 70 percent are having a hard time finding hourly trade or craft workers. Many said they’ve even increased pay rates and benefits and offered incentives and bonuses to attract workers.

Builders feel pinch

Spartanburg-area home builders say the shortage of skilled labor has been felt since the recession of 2008-09, when a housing slowdown forced many people to change careers.

Plus, a pool of younger trades workers has not been sufficient to replace those who have retired, according to longtime home builder Manning Lynch.

That, combined with a hot real estate market that began well over a year ago, is a problem, he said.

"We're still not building the houses that need to be built to meet the demand," Lynch said. "This is going to get worse rather than better."

Spartanburg Community College has stepped up recruitment efforts and are getting out the word that learning a trade can provide just as lucrative and rewarding a career as a traditional four-year degree can bring — without as much debt.

"Years and years we have pushed through the high school system that people needed a college degree, and we're suffering from it now," said Leigh Faircloth, executive director of the S.C. Association of Heating and Air Conditioning Contractors.

Faircloth said statewide there is a shortage of 10,000 HVAC workers, including installers and service technicians.

Supply and demand

Recently, the Spartanburg Association of Realtors announced that a sizzling summer housing market is expected through this fall, as more people are competing for \$200,000 homes and condos than there are houses available. Sales of those homes increased 32.1 percent in August over August 2016.

For the past year, the statewide association has noted a low inventory of homes on the market for sale, particularly single-family homes and condos in the \$100,000 to \$150,000 range.

Lynch said area home builders can meet some of the demand, but without more skilled workers they can't keep the pace expected by local Realtors.

"We just don't have the workforce we once had," Lynch said.

Shortages 'across the board'

Spartanburg home builder Parker Champion is building single-family homes in a subdivision called Lancaster Farms on John Lancaster Road in Roebuck.

He said it can take weeks, even months to get framers, roofers and bricklayers to arrive at a job site. There simply aren't enough crews to go around, he said.

"The shortage is across the board," Champion said. "A three-month starter house now takes five months to build. Where you might have to wait a couple of days, it now takes a week or two for a (subcontractor) to show up."

Stan Beckley chairs a task force in the Columbia area on construction workforce development. At a recent visit to the Upstate, he told builders that much is being done to attract high school graduates into training for trades.

In fact, many college-educated adults in unfulfilling fields are now turning to technical schools to learn trades, he said.

Beckley said a longtime stagnant economy has finally picked up, but at a pace too fast for builders to keep up with the demand in Charleston, Greenville-Spartanburg and Myrtle Beach.

"The labor supply continues to be a large concern," he said.

The greatest shortages are in carpenters, framers, brick masons, electricians and roofers, he said.

S.C. Gov. Henry McMaster declared October as Careers in Construction Month. Alongside that, 54 high school students in the Midlands participated in job shadowing with construction firms and at construction sites.

"The goal is for students to view construction occupations as potential career paths," Beckley said. "Career fairs and job fairs are other options for recruiting for construction jobs."

Training offered

Spartanburg Community College offers several courses on trades, according to Nannette Bongiovi, director of corporate training and career development.

The problem is, not enough students are signing up.

"Our numbers are down," said HVAC program coordinator John Mathis, himself a former builder.

"It's an odd field to get into," he said of heating and air conditioning installation. "I've asked middle school students, do you dream of growing up and being an HVAC person? The answer is no."

He said nowadays many students who pursue traditional four-year college degrees end up disappointed with their options, plus saddled with debt that takes years to pay off.

High schools could do more to point students toward trades, he said.

Bongiovi said SCC offers nationally recognized National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) programs that teach basic skills for construction and trades jobs.

That program is a prerequisite for courses that zero in on specific trades, and provide introduction to construction math, hand tools, power tools, construction drawings, communication skills and materials handling.

"It's an 80-hour course," she said. "Then they are entered into the national registry and receive a wallet card. They can then select a trade — carpentry or any of the trades."

She said SCC has begun working with the Northside Initiative in Spartanburg, where



students get hands-on training. Some end up getting offered full-time work with contractors.

"Our plans are to have additional core curriculum program classes," she said. "The intent is to provide a pipeline of qualified and skilled graduates of this program."

The college has also worked with the Spartanburg County Detention Center, providing skills that non-violent offenders can take with them upon their release.

Getting the word out

Beckley said home builders are supporting a new initiative to fund a tractor-trailer outfitted with displays about the job market for trades, which would visit middle and high schools throughout the state. "The goal would be to touch 50,000 students per year," he said. "It could be a true game-changer for communicating to students and parents the opportunities for income and employment without the debt associated with a four-year degree." Faircloth, whose HVAC organization represents 200 companies statewide, said there is no "silver bullet" to solving a lack of trade workers. "There are a lot of people who want to fix it, but it's like an elephant in the room," she said. "We are all trying to take bites." ■

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<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20171105/home-builders-cite-lack-of-trade-workers>*

Are You Ready for CHANGE?

The only thing you can really count on is change. There’s the kind you anticipate – high school graduation, college, new job, new family. And there’s the kind you dread – a lay-off, a divorce, a plan gone awry. And when change comes your way, you find ways to adapt.

You learn new things, make a new plan, take on a new challenge.

Education often has a role in big life changes. Whether it’s training for a promotion, retraining for a new job or setting out after a long-deferred dream, SCC has classes and degree programs to move you toward your new goals. Choose part time or full-time, day or evening classes. Start small with a certificate or jump right into an associate’s degree and transfer to a four year institution.

SCC’s small classes, comprehensive services and caring teachers are here to help you learn – and change. Not sure what’s next? Take a look at this A-Z listing of SCC programs. You never know, something unexpected might catch your eye. And change your life. ■



CREATIVE

Art, Design and Communication

Bursting with ideas and looking for a way to bring them to life? Whether on stage, in the kitchen, behind the drawing board or at a desk, turn your active imagination into a career.

- Culinary
- Graphic and web design
- Interior design
- Music
- Theater

Possible Career Paths	National Median Salary
Chefs and Head Cooks	\$43,180
Graphic Designers	\$47,640
Meeting, Convention and Event Planner	\$47,350
Web Developers	\$66,130



ENTERPRISING

Business and Financial

Can you see yourself starting a business, managing an organization or building a financial empire? Thrive on order and accountability? Then business studies just might be the place for you.

- Accounting
- Administrative Assistant
- Business
- Entrepreneurship
- Human resources
- Marketing

Possible Career Paths	National Median Salary
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	\$38,390
Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	\$55,860
Human Resources Assistant	\$59,180



HANDS ON

Construction, Maintenance and Repair

Love making things and making things work better? Rather get your hands dirty than work at a computer? Choose a career that keeps you busy building, repairing and improving.

- Automotive
- Electrical
- HVAC
- Mechanical
- Welding

Possible Career Paths	National Median Salary
Automotive Master Mechanics	\$38,470
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades	\$62,980
Heating and Air Conditioning Mechanics and Installers	\$45,910
Welders, Cutters and Welder Fitters	\$39,390



Education, Community and Public Service

Love working with people? Happiest when you’re making a positive contribution to the welfare of others? Consider making your career in education or community service.

- Teaching
- Early Childhood

Possible Paths Career	National Median Salary
Preschool Teachers	\$28,790
Social and Human Service Assistants	\$31,810



Healthcare and Medical

Always ready to help? Fascinated with the science and technology of health? Whether it’s about promoting health or treating disease, careers in healthcare require a combination of skill and compassion.

- Dental
- Health Unit Coordinating
- Nursing, CNA and Patient Care
- Massage Therapy
- Medical Assisting
- Medical Lab Technology
- Paramedic and EMT
- Pharmacy Technician
- Respiratory Care
- Surgical Technology

Possible Career Paths	National Median Salary
Dental Assistants	\$36,940
Massage Therapists	\$39,860
Physical Therapist Assistants	\$56,610
Registered Nurses	\$68,450
Respiratory Therapists	\$58,670
Radiologic Technicians	\$41,070



IT and Computer

Happiest when you’re dissecting code or developing a database? Do you wear your geek badge with pride? Choose from a range of IT careers creating, maintaining and trouble shooting in the digital world.

- Programming
- Networking
- Database security
- Software
- Hardware
- Computer Support

Possible Career Paths	National Median Salary
Computer Programmers	\$79,840
Computer Systems Analysts	\$87,220
Computer User Support Specialists	\$49,390
Database Administrators	\$84,950
Information Security Analysts	\$92,600
Web Administrators	\$86,510



Plant and Animal Kingdom

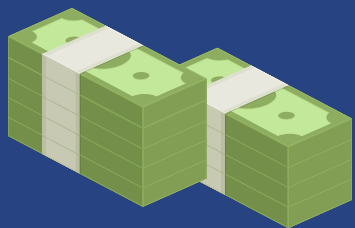
Choose a career that puts you close to the natural world. Whether it’s working outside, improving the environment, tending to animals or caring for plants, these active careers are for people who would rather not sit at a desk all day.

- Horticulture
- Landscape Management
- Sustainable Agriculture

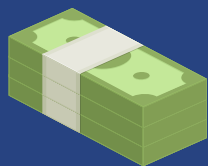
Possible Career Paths	National Median Salary
First-Line Supervisors of Landscaping, Lawn Service, and Groundskeeping Workers	\$45,740
Nursery and Greenhouse Managers	\$66,360

The Numbers Speak for Themselves...

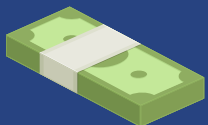
In your first two years*



A Private University
could cost as much as
\$90,0000



A Public University
could cost as much as
\$30,000



At Spartanburg Community
College your first two years
would cost you only
\$8,400

*Tuition only

A QUALITY education doesn't
have to mean higher costs.

What could YOU do with all that
extra cash?



SPARTANBURG
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

7 EASY STEPS TO ENROLL AT SPARTANBURG COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1

APPLY TO SCC

- Complete an SCC application: ApplyNow.sccsc.edu.

2

REQUEST FINANCIAL AID

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after you file your IRS tax return: www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- For assistance, call (864) 592-4810 or visit any SCC campus near you.

3

SUBMIT TRANSCRIPTS

- Submit your official high school, GED or college transcripts to the SCC Admissions Center:
PO Box 4386, Spartanburg, SC 29305
Unofficial transcripts will not be accepted.

4

TAKE ENTRANCE TEST

- Visit the Admissions Center and complete the Accuplacer placement test, unless you have already taken one of the following –
 - ▶ ACT and scored a minimum of 19 in Math and 19 in Verbal
 - ▶ SAT and scored a minimum of 480 in Math and 480 in Critical Reading

5

CONFIRM ACCEPTANCE, SEE ADVISOR & REGISTER

- Contact the SCC Admissions Center to confirm your acceptance, then an academic advisor will assist you with registering for classes.

6

PAY TUITION & FEES

- Follow up with the Financial Aid Office and the Business Office to confirm your tuition and fees are paid.

7

COMPLETE NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

- We encourage you to attend an orientation to make the most of your experience at SCC. Please register for a session that fits into your schedule at www.sccsc.edu/nso.

ENROLL NOW!

(864) 592.4404 or toll free (877) 592-4404
www.sccsc.edu/admissions | admissions@sccsc.edu

SCC CONNECT

